

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Victory in Rhode Island Election Elates the Republicans—Guffy Coal Bill Undergoes Changes—Black's Probers Enrage Hurley.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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REPUBLICAN leaders throughout the country were immensely heartened—probably too much so—by the result of the election in the First district of Rhode Island, where the late Charles F. Risk, Republican and determined opponent of the New Deal, defeated Antonio Price, Democrat, by nearly 13,000 votes, capturing the seat in congress which Francis B. Condon, Democrat, resigned to go on the State Supreme court. The result was a decisive victory for the Republicans, and a clear indication that President Roosevelt would be defeated for re-election next year.

Representative B. H. Smith of New York, minority leader, made a speech about it in the house in which he said: "This is the first time the people of any part of the country have had an opportunity to pass on the record and the administration. They have passed on it in a very decisive manner. The election shows the people are beginning to think. The handwriting is on the wall. From now on we will witness similar reverses by the citizenry of the New Deal program."

Other Republican congressmen spoke in similar vein. John J. O'Connor, New York, Minority Democrat, countered with the assertion that there was a split in the Democratic party in the Rhode Island district; while Tom Blanton of Texas shouted shame on Rhode Island because it had asked more federal aid than almost any other state. Anti-New Deal Democratic senators, like Gerry, Byrd and Tydings, agreed the election was significant, but that the White House there was no cause for celebration.

Former Senator Foss of Ohio with surprising frankness expressed the belief that the G. O. P. would have to wait until the next election to elect a President. He said: "I don't see how the strongest Republicans without all that money next year can beat the weakest Democrats with nearly \$5,000,000,000 at his disposal."

REPUBLICANS of the mid-Western states that participated in the Grass Roots conference in Springfield, Ill., have made the Grass Roots movement a permanent auxiliary of the party. Harrison E. Carter, Republican, is its chairman. Mrs. Leslie Wheeler of Illinois the vice chairman, and Dr. Percival C. Williams, the secretary of Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky, not reported at the Springfield meeting, have been invited to join in the movement.

SENATOR HUGO BLACK of Alabama may be bringing out a lot of facts in his inquiry into lobbying, but in the way of conducting the investigation is not winning him any credit. The house committee has all along felt that he was trying to bring out a lot of facts in the way of conducting the investigation is not winning him any credit. The house committee has all along felt that he was trying to bring out a lot of facts in the way of conducting the investigation is not winning him any credit.

One of these witnesses who complained bitterly was Patrick J. Hurley, secretary of war in the Hoover administration. He testified that he had received \$10,000 from the Associated Gas and Electric system in the last three years, but insisted he was paid for legal advice only and had done no lobbying. Hurley was not permitted to read a prepared statement, and Black's interjections and questions so harassed the witness that he rose to his feet and shouted: "Everyone knows all you gentlemen are good prosecutors; of course, you don't know what it is to be fair or just. You try to put words into a witness' mouth. Your questions are all on the type of the 'Why don't you stop beating your wife' query?"

Joseph P. Tumulty, who was secretary to President Wilson, also was put on the stand and was not treated so roughly. He, too, admitted receiving considerable sums from utility concerns, and like Hurley he denied that he had done any lobbying. Tumulty testified that he had former Senator George H. Moses (Rep.), N. H., \$5,000 and would pay another \$2,500 to John Thomas J. Walsh (Dem.), Mont. Moses and Walsh, Tumulty said, were lawyers and added in work done for the utility clients.

THERE were strong indications that the house ways and means committee would produce an entirely new measure to replace the Guffy coal bill. Chairman Doughton revealed that the committee

had adopted a number of amendments designed to bring the measure within constitutional limits and to meet objections that it would discriminate against some coal districts. The committee still stood 14 to 11 against the bill, however. The President was said to have informed the Democratic members that he was agreeable to any changes they might wish to make provided the main objectives of the measure were maintained.

According to current report, the changes agreed upon in the committee included:

1. Elimination of the section forbidding the Interstate Commerce commission to issue certificates of convenience and necessity for operation of railroads to numerous mines without prior approval by the bituminous coal commission.
2. Establishment of a consumers' council to safeguard the interests of consumers.
3. Addition of a provision for hearings to determine whether the method of fixing prices was working to the detriment of any coal producing district.
4. Reduction from nine to five in the number of commission members.
5. Addition of a stipulation that none shall have any outside connections.
6. Reduction from 25 to 15 per cent in the amount of credit allowed to producers who abide by the code.

Scenes and Persons in the Current News

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The bill creates a licensing system for businesses engaged in commerce among the states and provides a national incorporation law.

The federal trade commission, the government's business policeman in the days before NRA and the agency to which the New Deal turned after NRA failed, would be abolished. O'Mahoney's bill would increase its membership from five to nine, with three representatives representing employers, three employees, and three the general public.

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